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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

May 27, 1947

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TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #15

The Second Deficiency Appropriation Act was signed by President Truman over the week end. It continues unexpended balances from previous appropriations and makes a new appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the farm labor program. These funds are for the conduct of the domestic program by the Extension Service and the foreign program by the Labor Branch from July 1 to December 31, 1947, and for certain liquidation expenses after January 1, 1947. The Act provides that not less than \$2,000,000 of the new funds shall be allotted to the States. (For full text see my letter of May 23 to State Extension Directors.) The new funds appropriated are only half that which the President recommended to Congress. Many economies will be necessary. As it is unlikely that additional foreign workers can be imported for fall harvest, energetic plans should be developed now for maximum local recruitment and full utilization of migratory workers.

The May 23 Congressional Record contains the following in regard to permanent farm labor legislation: "By Senator Capper, Kansas. S. 1334. A bill to enable the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Federal Extension Service, to cooperate with the land-grant colleges and universities in carrying out a program for the collection and dissemination of information with respect to the supply of, the need for, and the effective use of agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry." As soon as we can get a copy of the bill you will be advised of its content.

Report of the Federal Inter-Agency Committee on Migrant Labor (General Erskine, chairman) was released for press use, on Sunday. When we receive our supply, (in a day or two, we hope) copies will be sent to you. We will appreciate information regarding the publicity given this report in your State--clippings if you have extras. We appreciate the fine clippings of local migrant stories that we have received from several states.

Ohio's summary for the farm labor show held in 59 counties, reveals: total attendance, 60,777 (1,030 per county) and 58,115 requests for bulletins and plans (average 985 per county). Local devices exhibited totaled 831, about an average of 14 per county. The top attendance in any one county was 1,933 in Columbiana, while the low was 275. In 47 counties they want another show in 1948. Three others want to skip a year. Four counties want no repeat performance next year and expressed no decision about 1949, State Supervisor Dowdy reports.

What Do Farm Labor Shows Cost? Answers are in from two states--New Hampshire and South Carolina, and here's what they report: New Hampshire: Total cost 11 shows \$2,494.71. On basis of total attendance of 6,628 persons cost per attendant was 7½ cents, says State Supervisor Whippen. This total cost covers materials and labor used in planning and building equipment, circular letters and photography used in publicity, trucking, hotel rooms and meals for staff of 7 enroute and travel.

South Carolina: Total cost \$9,505.25 for 24 shows, slightly less than 20 cents for each of the 40,457 who attended. Requests for bulletins totaled 2,840, the cost of the shows being "approximately the same as that of printing and mailing two bulletins to an individual", says State Supervisor Brannon. Newspapers printed 265 columns of news and 30 pages of advertising and radio carried 267 programs and spot announcements about the shows. The state exhibit included 82 display panels, 100 models, 60 colored photos, and 20 demonstrations. Farmers and home makers exhibited 567 different pieces of homemade equipment and 215 commercial dealers exhibited or demonstrated 2,661 pieces of farm and home equipment.

The Dakotas are putting more emphasis on their information programs. In South Dakota, Dittmer is urging area extension agents to keep labor need story prominently before public through newspapers, radio, posters and other materials. "We urge all county extension agents who operate area farm labor offices to publicize needs for area, to make sure all local workers have opportunity to apply before too many outsiders come in", Dittmer says. In North Dakota, Herbison says "information service for guidance of men and machines in supply areas to where they can find suitable employment will rate number one spot in farm labor operations here this year". As to appeal, Herbie says, "the dollar sign has replaced the red, white and blue patriotic motive in farm labor circles."

New Jersey county extension agents and farm labor assistants have been successful users of classified advertising space in town and city papers in getting men for farm jobs. In summarizing results in Passaic county, Mr. Wood reports: "Newspaper advertisements have done us a world of good and the continued use of this means of recruiting seems desirable. Results to date: Number of inquiries, 49; number of interviews, 42; number of attempted placements, 38; number of placements, 35".

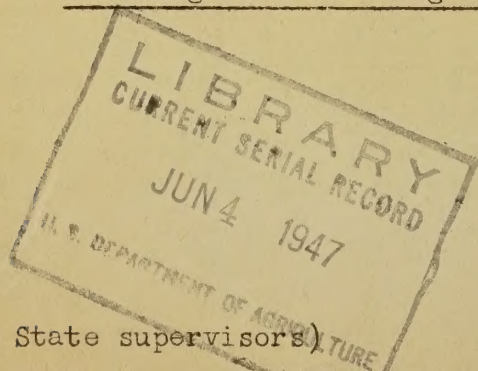
Out in Wyoming, State Supervisor R. E. Varner has done a very effective job in calling county agents' attention to the general recruiting poster--"Help Needed"--and in emphasizing the importance of putting the name and address of the farm labor office in the space provided on the poster. He put the message across in a two page letter which included a sketch showing where and how it should be done and a suggestion for the proper wording to be used.

New York is attacking the prevalence of accidents among farm workers through a series of letters to county agents, and by county agents to workers and employers of labor. The campaign is built around a two color 11 by 15 "ABC" poster which features the foreign worker accident toll in New York State last year--2 killed and 219 injured.

Illinois State Farm Labor Supervisor Murphy reports employers of Oklahoma men who came into the state last year and who did satisfactory work, are contacting these workers through letters and making arrangements for them to come back this summer, and inviting them to bring other good harvest workers.

Yours very truly,

Barnard Joy
Barnard Joy, Acting
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program



(Copy to State supervisors)